

Please substitute the following claim 1 for the pending claim 1.

C¹³
1. (Twice amended) A method for providing latency to a cytokine comprising covalently linking a fusion protein comprising a latency associated peptide and a proteolytic cleavage site with a cytokine, wherein said fusion protein is heterologous to said cytokine and wherein said fusion protein provides latency to said cytokine.

Please substitute the following claim 5 for the pending claim 5:

C¹⁴
5. (Twice amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the fusion protein is covalently linked to the latent TGF β binding protein (LTBP).

Please add the following claims 25-27:

25. (New) The method of claim 1 wherein the cytokine is interferon.

26. (New) The method of claim 1 wherein the cytokine is an interleukin.

C¹⁵
27. (New) A method of treating inflammatory disease in a patient comprising administering to said patient a therapeutically effective amount of a fusion protein comprising a latency associated peptide and a proteolytic cleavage site, wherein said fusion protein is covalently linked to a cytokine and wherein said fusion protein is heterologous to said cytokine.